

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An arrangement of comprising:

at least first and second appliances such as instruments or actuators which are associated with of a technical process, each appliance being one of a process measurement device and a process actuator, wherein the first appliance communicates with the second appliance to pass diagnostic information relating to operation of the second appliance to the second appliance; and a unidirectional or bidirectional data interchange with a central point, such as a control console or display device, wherein,

a) — a transmitter/receiver connected to the second appliance, is arranged, which is designed for data interchange with the a central point of the technical process, and for calling b) the transmitter/receiver is also designed to call up data from the other appliances or to pass data to them, with the other appliances not having any transmitting or receiving device for direct communication with the central point second appliance to transmit to the central point.

2. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmitter/receiver is associated with one of only the second appliances appliance.

3. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the appliances are designed to interchange data with one another ~~by means of via~~ the transmitter/receiver, and ~~to~~ carry out data preprocessing and/or diagnosis functions.

4. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the appliances ~~are designed to~~ pass on their data as at least one of an analog signal and or as a digital signal.

5. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmitter/receiver ~~is designed to carry out~~ performs analog/digital signal conversion, and/or data preprocessing.

6. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 2, wherein each of the appliances are designed to interchange data with one another ~~by means of via~~ the transmitter/receiver, and ~~to~~ carry out data preprocessing and/or diagnosis functions.

7. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 6, wherein the appliances ~~are designed to~~ pass on their data as at least one of an analog signal or as and a digital signal.

8. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 7, wherein the transmitter/receiver is ~~designed to carry out~~ performs analog/digital signal conversion, and/or data preprocessing.

9. (Currently Amended) System comprising:
an arrangement of appliances of a technical process, each of which functions as at least one of a measuring device and an actuator, wherein a first of the appliances communicates with a second of the appliances to pass diagnostic information relating to operation of the second appliance to the second appliance ;
a central communication device for data interchange; and
a common transmitter/receiver connected to each of the appliances, and
arranged for data interchange with the central communication device, and ~~configured for bidirectional communication with the appliances, wherein the system is not configured for the appliances to transmit or receive direct communications with the central communication device~~